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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

23 June 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR

SUBJECT : Concerning Reports on Underground Political
Organizations in the USSR

1. The AECASSOWARY operations have reported on three separate sources who brought out information from the USSR on currently active underground organizations. The first of these, a middle aged Ukrainian-American woman, encountered the underground through a series of contacts within the Basilian Order of the Uniat Catholic Church. These church contacts led the source from Rome to Poland to a Basilian nun and then a Ukrainian priest in Lvov, who introduced source to an unidentified underground leader who described his organization to her. He said the underground was stronger in the Eastern Ukraine than in the Western Ukraine and that it had supporters all the way out into Siberia. He described it as an informal organization with, however, a cohesive leadership that maintained contact via couriers. He claimed to be able to muster 20 to 35 trusted people in the Lvov area. He asked for support from Ukrainians in the West including warm clothing, shoes and goods such as nylon stockings that could be exchanged for money. He said that the main activities were political and propagandistic rather than terrorist. He further said that the underground considered its struggle inseparable from that of the Church in the Ukraine. He claimed that they had access to top party and government officials, who also helped them out. Source was asked to relay the information given her back to Ukrainian organizations in the West to see what help along the lines mentioned could be given. (In addition to the other sources, the Soviet press referred to the arrest of a group of Basilian nuns in Lvov who distributed Ukrainian nationalist propaganda and were conducting political activities along these lines last spring. Archbishop Sliwyy, in his conversation with AECASSOWARY/29, mentioned that he had been able to intercede with the Soviet Embassy in Rome to have the sentences for the nuns significantly reduced.)

2. The second source was a Canadian Ukrainian now resident as a student in France who had been cultivated and assessed by AECASSOWARY/29 for a considerable length of time. While in Kiev in August 1963 with a group of tourists, he stopped into a coffee house called Chay i Kava which was a meeting for students. There he encountered members of a student group called Suchasnyk, an organization of Ukrainian students whose aim it is to be active in Ukrainian cultural life. It has a distinct political purpose, the expansion of Ukrainian culture and Ukrainian national consciousness within the Ukraine. One of the members was quoted by source as saying: "Today, we are not permitted to develop

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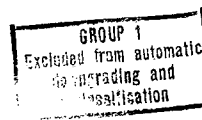
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any political activity. We can be active only in the cultural field. You must know, however, that cultural activity also has its political aspect." As an example of the group's activities, it was reported that the occasion of the anniversary of the birth of Ivan Franko was celebrated in January 1963 in a Kiev park where some 2,000 students, many of them in national costumes, had gathered around the Ivan Franko monument. The authorities turned out the lights in the park to which the students responded by lighting torches they had brought with them. When the authorities tried to drown out their speeches and songs by transmitting loud music over the public address system, the students went out of the park into the street where they continued their speeches and singing throughout the night. The police did not interfere and no incidents occurred. This Ukrainian student group, which now has a legal existence with the title Creative Youth Club, emerged from a student underground organization. The authorities had finally come to the conclusion that it was better to have the activities of the group overt where they could be better observed ^{than} and force them to operate clandestinely. Similar clubs exist in other Ukrainian centers, an especially vigorous unit being in Lvov. They were told that the group was also active in Kharkov. There it was headed by a young professor of law of the Kharkov University. These clubs have strong connections with the Ukrainian writers, particularly those of the younger generation.

3. The third source was an American woman guide on a USIA tour who left the Ukraine with her family during World War II and came to the U. S. in 1950. She also encountered the Creative Youth Club in Kiev and described it in similar terms. Members of the group asked her to try to do several things in the West involving propaganda activities, such as to publicize incidents of Soviet terror and new arrests. They claimed that Soviet citizens were again mysteriously disappearing. They wanted Western travelers to the Ukraine to bring along emigre publications, etc. and urged that Western statesmen speak out in favor of the Ukraine as did the former prime minister of Canada, Mr. Diefenbaker. Through members of the Creative Youth Club, this source encountered the Union of Ukrainian Terrorists. It was described as an illegal organization of Ukrainian youth, mostly students and intellectuals, whose aim is the separation of the Ukraine from Russia by means of underground terroristic activity. Their political orientation is essentially national communist. She was told that in early June 1963, 18 members of this organization had been arrested in Lvov, but was not given details concerning those detained. She was told that they were trying to collect weapons, their present main source being Georgia and was asked how it might be possible at all to get weapons from western sources. Members of the terrorist organization are of the opinion that the Creative Youth Club is not accomplishing anything and that more direct political steps must be undertaken. Source was informed by a Ukrainian woman in Lvov who attended the book exhibit there that there had been an attempt to assassinate Khrushchev in Lvov in January 1962. The streets upon which

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his car was passing was mined and, although Khrushchev escaped, as a consequence of the explosion many people were killed. There were a great many arrests following the incident. The woman told source: "We should have waited and killed Khrushchev along with Castro but now Khrushchev is afraid to come here." The same woman mentioned rioting in Krasnodar in 1962 during the November 7th celebrations, as a consequence of which the authorities had to call in militia detachments from other areas to quell the rioters. There was shooting and a number of deaths resulted. She also mentioned certain instances of strikes and other civil disturbances of a less violent nature.

[Chief, SR/CA]

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